



Mount Olive
BAPTIST CHURCH

Mt Olive Missionary Baptist Church

101 W. Clinton Ave. Fresno, CA 93705

A place of Promise, Purpose, and Possibilities Vol. 4 Issue 1

There's Nothing the Lord Can't Fix in 2026

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Message from Pastor Norman

What is Worship

Psalm 96:9 — “O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; fear before Him, all the earth.”

Worship is more than simply attending a service—it reflects our relationship with the Lord. This passage reminds us to approach worship with reverence and focus, arriving prepared to honor God with our full attention.

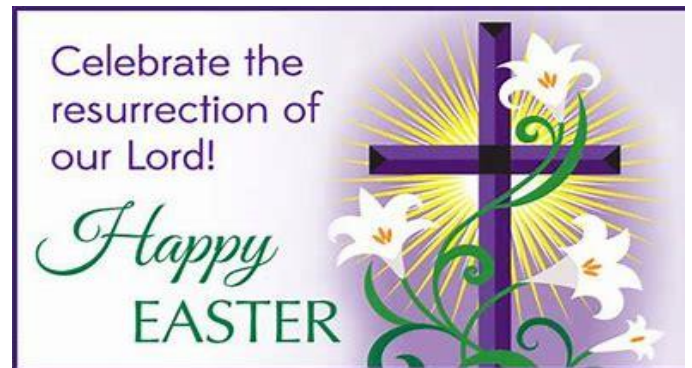
Worship is about a relationship with our Lord. In our text, it states to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Fear (respect) Him all the earth. We need to show up on time for worship, with nothing but the Lord on our mind.

Psalm 34:1 declares, *“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”*

Psalm 100:4 instructs us to *“enter His gates with*

thanksgiving and His courts with praise... and bless His name.”

True worship occurs when we keep our minds on Jesus rather than on ourselves or others. When we do so, we experience genuine, meaningful worship.



Karl Barth was a significant figure in 20th-century theology, known for his opposition to National Socialism and his role in the Confessing Church. His works emphasize the sovereignty of God, the centrality of Jesus Christ, and the importance of grace in the Christian life. His quotes often challenge conventional thinking and encourage deeper reflection on faith and existence.

These quotes encapsulate Barth's profound understanding of theology and his call for a genuine relationship with God, making them relevant for anyone exploring Christian thought. (A brief summary in Barth's own words: “To say atonement is to say, Jesus Christ.” ... “He took our place as Judge. He took our place as the judge. He was judged in our place. And He acted justly in our place.”)

First, that the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. This is the humility of God, the God who in freedom became man for our sakes. Sin, in this light, is that we as a human race desire to be Gods. God became a man to cure us of this sin. He humbled Himself and became one with us to destroy our prideful illusions of ever becoming God. Second, that Jesus is our Lord as a servant. Jesus came not to be served but to serve, and this reveals the nature of God as the Lord. He is not Lord as we imagine, but Lord as the servant. He humbles Himself and becomes the servant of sinful man. Mankind, on the other hand, wants to be Lord over all, to pridefully command all things. Yet Jesus comes to heal our evil fixation with this illusionary Lordship, by revealing that true Lordship is servanthood.

Third, that Jesus is the Judge who was judged in our place. He alone is the righteous Judge of man, and He has, as this judge, suffered and died in the judgment we deserved. He is the Judge who steps down and dies the judgment He proclaims in the place of the unjust. Yet we, in our prideful humanity, desire to be our own judge. We desire to be the masters of our own lives and to judge for ourselves what is right and wrong. Yet Jesus reveals the high price of the Judge, and unveils the truth that only God's judgment is truly righteous.

Fourth, Jesus dies helplessly and in complete abandonment on the cross. He was crucified and buried in full trust that, despite His helplessness, God, His dear Father, would come to help. Humanity, in our pride, attempts self-help, self-salvation. We try to be our own hero. But God in Christ shows that it is only when we are helpless and fully abandoned to His salvation that we are free from our illusion, and He saves us.

By Stephen D Morrison



Doctrine of The Holy Spirit

by Dr. Rev. Ray Howard, A.A., M. Div., D.D., J.D.

The Spirit Seals the Believer with the Assurance of Salvation: The sealing has to do with the heart and the conscience of the believer, satisfying both as it relates to sin and sonship or our adoption as children.

Ephesians 1:13-14 "...in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

We are sealed until the day of redemption, which is yet to come.

Ephesians 4:30- And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

The sealing stands for two things: Ownership and Likeness, which will not be completed until the day of redemption.

Full restitution of all things has not taken place as yet.

Acts 3:21- Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets since the world began.

READ: II Timothy 2:19-21. It shows the ownership before the day of redemption; therefore, He will come to claim that which is His.

We are sealed for the Master's use and prepared unto every good work. (II Timothy 2:21). Our sonship is presently set forth. (READ Galatians)

The Holy Spirit Infills The Believer. The filling differs from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, which takes place at the moment of our regeneration, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. Then the Holy Spirit comes and takes up His dwelling within the believer.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is not one initial act; it will occur times too great to number. However, the filling's greatest occurrence is when the believer is under stress or in great difficulty. The filling occurs when we yield and invite His guidance.

READ Acts 4:29-31- After the Day of Pentecost, the apostles were filled again. It is because the filling is an empowering of the believer.

Lily And The Rock

The story was told of a lily that was caught up in some high water. This lily continued to stand after the high waters caused so many other lilies to be uprooted. This one lily was able to take the rapidity of the high waters.

All of the other lilies were flowing by the wayside, but there was one that continued to stand. He discovered that wrapped around the roots of a lily was a rock.

Oh yes, that was how we can stand. We can stand as long as we wrap our roots around the Rock. That is what the hymn writer meant when he wrote: "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus Name. On Christ the Solid Rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand."



Dietrich Bonhoeffer Quotes:

1. **"Silence in the face of evil is evil itself."** - This quote emphasizes the moral obligation to speak out against injustice and wrongdoing.
2. **"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance."** - Bonhoeffer critiques superficial faith that lacks true commitment and discipleship.
3. **"Your life as a Christian should make nonbelievers question their disbelief in God."** - A call for Christians to live authentically and impactfully, demonstrating their faith through actions.
4. **"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."** - This highlights the importance of considering the legacy we create for future generations.
5. **"One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons."** - Bonhoeffer stresses the importance of action over mere words in living out one's faith.

Reflections on Faith and Society

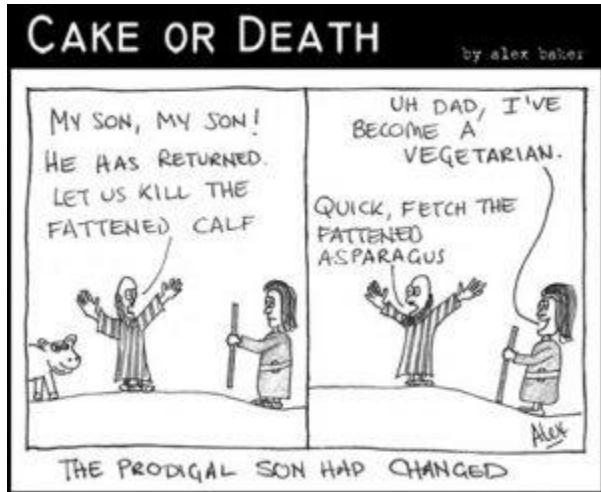
- **"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice; we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."** - A powerful reminder that true compassion involves actively working against systemic injustice.
- **"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating."** - This quote encourages self-reflection and compassion rather than judgment.
- **"To endure the cross is not tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ."** - Bonhoeffer speaks to the cost of discipleship and the significance of suffering in the Christian journey.

When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Bless them that persecute you.' If our enemy cannot put up with us any longer and takes to cursing us, our immediate reaction must be to lift up our hands and bless him. Our enemies are the blessed of the Lord. Their curse can do us no harm. May their poverty be enriched with all the riches of God, with the blessing of Him whom they seek to oppose in vain. We are ready to endure their curses so long as they redound to their blessing.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Bible Trivia – Questions

If the whole church be assembled together and all speak with tongues, and there come in unbelievers, what will the unbelievers most likely say?

1. 'How do I join this church?'
2. 'Ye are mad!'
3. 'My, how spiritual!'
4. 'There goes the neighborhood!'

Answer: 'Ye are mad!'

See: [1 Corinthians 14:23](#)

Which book is this verse from? To every [thing there is] a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

- 1 Matthew
- 2 Revelation
- 3 Ecclesiastes
- 4 Daniel

Answer: **Ecclesiastes**

See: [Ecclesiastes 3:1](#)

When the flood ended where did the Ark come to rest?

1. In the valley of Gaza
2. In the hill country of Canaan
3. In the land of the Edomites
4. Upon the mountains of Ararat

Answer: **Upon the mountains of Ararat**

See: [Genesis 8:4](#)

Which one of these cities was not one chosen by Moses as a city of refuge in Deut. 4:43?

1. Golan
2. Bezer
3. Jerusalem
4. Ramoth

Answer: **Jerusalem**

See: [Deuteronomy 4:43](#)

What does the Valley of Jehoshaphat refer to?

1. valley of death
2. valley of destruction
3. valley of judgment
4. valley of bones

Answer: **valley of judgment**

See: [Joel 3:2](#)

Zechariah has a vision of four chariots coming out from two mountains made of what?

- 1 gold
- 2 silver
- 3 brass
- 4 platinum

Answer: **brass**

See: [Zechariah 6:1](#)



WHEN I WAS A KID WE DIDN'T HAVE NO WIMPY MANNA ... WE ATE SAND AND WE LIKED IT

The Ascension

By arrangement, the eleven disciples met on a mountain in Galilee. Jesus appeared and said, "All power is given to me in heaven and earth. Go therefore and preach the gospel to all the nations of the earth, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all the commands I have given you. I am with you always, even to the end of the world." People today call the Great Commission. It clearly outlines the work every Christian is called to do for the Master.

The last time Jesus showed Himself to the disciples may have been in Jerusalem. He told them not to leave the city until God sent them His Spirit, as He had promised. He will give them a new power to go forth for Him. Jesus led the disciples out of the city and over to the Mount of Olives. He raised His hands, blessed them, and began to rise into the air, until a cloud covered Him.

Two angels with shining garments stood among the disciples. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you, shall come again to earth, as you have seen Him go up to heaven." The disciples were glad. They worshiped their risen Lord Jesus, then went back to Jerusalem and constantly praised and thanked God in the Temple.



Theological Significance

The Ascension is a pivotal event in Christian doctrine for several reasons:

1. **Exaltation of Christ:** The Ascension signifies Jesus' exaltation and His enthronement at the right hand of God. This position of authority is affirmed in passages such as [Ephesians 1:20-21](#), which states that God "raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come".

2. **Intercession:** The Ascension marks the beginning of Christ's high priestly ministry, where He intercedes on behalf of believers. [Hebrews 7:25](#) emphasizes this role: "Therefore He is able to save completely those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them".

3. **Promise of the Holy Spirit:** Before His Ascension, Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would empower the disciples for their mission. [Acts 1:8](#) records Jesus' words: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" .

4. **Hope of Christ's Return:** The Ascension also assures believers of Christ's return. The angels' message in [Acts 1:11](#) provides hope and anticipation for the Second Coming: "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven" .

Reveal His Glory

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of Glory. Selah. Psalm 24:8-10



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